

VZCZCXRO2830
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #1083 1330411
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 130411Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2904
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3949
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7751
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9225
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2844
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5243
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5012
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001083

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - SRI LANKA UNREST AND REPLACEMENT OF
TOP U.S. COMMANDER IN AFGHANISTAN

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Wednesday morning included the
upcoming DPJ presidential election on Saturday, as well as
yesterday's summit between Prime Minister Aso and Russian Premier
Putin.

12. "Humanitarian Crisis in Sri Lanka" On the civil war in Sri Lanka,
the liberal Asahi editorialized (4/13): "It is clear that the [human
shield] tactics used by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
(LTTE) are unacceptable from a humanitarian standpoint. The rebels
must immediately stop their detention of local residents and release
all of them. The Sri Lankan government should also halt its military
operations and instead take measures to evacuate the residents. The
international community will direct its criticism toward the
government forces if they go ahead with the operation, which might
result in a large number of casualties. The international community
must not overlook this humanitarian crisis. It should be reminded of
the hard lesson learned when its failure to correctly assess the
situation ended up producing a large number of casualties in
conflicts in Rwanda and Sudan."

13. "Top Commander for Afghan Operation Ousted" On Defense Secretary
Gates' decision to remove the top U.S. military commander from
Afghanistan, the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote (5/13): "In
appointing Gen. McChrystal as the new commander, Gates referred to
the 'necessity of fresh ideas and eyes' for the stabilization of
Afghanistan. This statement exposed mounting frustration on the part
of the Obama administration at the lack of improvement in the Afghan
situation.... Gen. McChrystal is an anti-terror operation expert who
successfully carried out an operation to kill a senior al-Qaeda
official in Iraq. The Obama administration is poised to turn the
situation in Afghanistan around by undertaking bold
counter-terrorism operations as seen in the Iraqi theater."

ZUMWALT